

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of advertising, the method comprising:
maintaining an Internet-related communication session between a user
and a portal; and
during the communication session, selectively providing
advertisements based on any one of user constraints and sales criteria.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of selectively providing
advertisements comprises:
playing an audio message identifying a product or service to be
advertised, including a query as to whether the user would like to hear more
information regarding the product or service;
identifying a response of the user; and
selectively playing an audio advertisement for the product or service,
if the response was affirmative.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of playing an audio message
identifying a product or service is in response to a previous user selection.
4. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of playing an audio message
identifying a product or service comprises identifying a preference of the user and
selecting an advertisement for a product or service which corresponds to the
preference of the user.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein the step of identifying a preference
of the user comprises identifying the user and retrieving preference information
corresponding to the user, the preference information being stored in a database.
6. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of identifying a response of
the user comprises applying voice recognition techniques.
7. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of selectively playing an
audio advertisement comprises defining a set of advertisements, assigning weights to

each member of the set of advertisements, and selecting a member of the set of advertisements based on its assigned weight.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the step of assigning weights to each member of the set of advertisements comprises prioritizing each member of the set
5 of advertisements.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of prioritizing each member of the set of advertisements comprises determining a ratio based on sales criteria corresponding to each advertisement of the set of advertisements.

10. The method of claim 7, further comprising making a record of the
10 audio advertisement selectively played, the record being used in defining a cost of advertising for the audio advertisement.

11. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of identifying a response
comprises playing a confirmation audio message to confirm the response.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of maintaining an Internet-
15 related communication session between a user and a portal comprises establishing a communication connection between a wireless application protocol (WAP) device and the portal.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of maintaining a
communication session between a user and a portal comprises establishing a
20 communication connection between a web device and the portal.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of maintaining an Internet-
related communication session comprises communicating with a voice interface.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of maintaining an Internet-
related communication session comprises communicating with a personal computer
25 (PC) interface.

2/27 16. A service which provides audio advertisements over a two way communication device during a communication session, the service comprising:
a user interface which coordinates communication of the service with a user; and
5 an advertising subsystem coupled to the user interface, the advertising subsystem being configured to coordinate the selective presentation of advertisements to the user;
whereby the advertisements include sponsorship advertisements which accompany each communication session, advertisements selectively played
10 based on particular attributes of the user, and advertisements selectively played based on permission by the user.

17. The service of claim 16, wherein the user interface comprises a receiver and a transmitter configured to communicate audio signals to and from the user.

15 18. The service of claim 16, further comprising at least one database coupled to the advertising subsystem, the at least one database storing information about the user and the advertisements played.

19. The service of claim 16, wherein the advertisements selectively played based on permission by the user are selected by the user voicing an
20 affirmative response to a query.

20. The service of claim 16, wherein advertisements selectively played based on particular attributes of the user comprise a prioritization based on the particular attributes of the user.

21. The service of claim 16, wherein advertisements selectively played
25 based on particular attributes of the user comprise a prioritization based on sales criteria associated with the advertisements.

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Sub 22. A system for advertising using voice control, the system comprising:
 2 means for maintaining a communication session between a user and a
 portal; and

means for providing advertisements during the communication
 5 session based on any one of user constraints and sales criteria.

23. The system of claim 22, wherein the means for providing
 advertisements comprises:

means for playing an audio message identifying a product or service
 to be advertised, including a query as to whether a user would like to hear more
 10 information regarding the product or service;

means for identifying a user's response; and

means for selectively playing an audio advertisement for the product
 or service, if the user's response was affirmative.

24. The system of claim 23, wherein the means for playing an audio
 15 message identifying a product or service is in response to a previous selection.

25. The system of claim 23, wherein the means for playing an audio
 message identifying a product or service comprises means for identifying a
 preference of the user and selecting an advertisement for a product or service which
 corresponds to the preference of the user.

20 26. The system of claim 24, wherein the means for identifying a
 preference of the user comprises means for identifying the user and retrieving
 preference information corresponding to the user, the preference information being
 stored in a database.

27. The system of claim 23, wherein the means for identifying a user's
 25 response comprises applying voice recognition techniques.

28. The system of claim 23, wherein the means for selectively playing an
 audio advertisement comprises means for defining a set of advertisements, means

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for assigning sales criteria to each member of the set of advertisements, and means for selecting a member of the set of advertisements based on its sales criteria.

29. The system of claim 28, wherein the means for assigning sales criteria comprises means for determining achieved advertisement delivery rate.

5 30. The system of claim 28, further comprising means for making a record of the audio advertisement selectively played, the record being used in defining a cost of advertising for the audio advertisement.

31. The system of claim 23, wherein the means for identifying a user's response comprises means for playing a confirmation audio message to confirm the
10 identified listener's response.

32. A method of advertising comprising:
generating a set of possible advertisements, the set of possible advertisements being related to a context;
ordering the set of possible advertisements based on a sales criteria
15 associated with each advertisement of the set of possible advertisements; and
providing advertisements from the set of possible advertisements based on the ordering.

33. The method of claim 32, wherein the context comprises information on the user's preferences, user's location, and user's personal characteristics.

20 34. The method of claim 32, wherein the sales criteria comprise information on duration of the advertising contract, information on the number of times the advertisement is to be played, and information on the number of times the advertisement has already been played.

25 35. The method of claim 32, wherein the step of providing advertisements from the set of possible advertisements comprises querying the user on whether to play a particular advertisement in its entirety.

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36. The method of claim 32, wherein the step of providing advertisements from a set of possible advertisements comprises selecting an advertisement based on prior user selections.

37. The method of claim 32, wherein the step of ordering the set of possible advertisements based on a sales criteria associated with each advertisement of the set of possible advertisements comprises providing billing information on advertisements used based on a per use rate of charge.

38. The method of claim 32, wherein the step of providing advertisements from the set of possible advertisements based on the ordering comprises playing an audio advertisement via a voice interface.

39. The method of claim 32, wherein the step of providing advertisements from the set of possible advertisements based on the ordering comprises displaying advertisements on a wireless application protocol (WAP) device.

40. The method of claim 32, further comprising recording which particular advertisements were provided to a particular user to form a user record.

41. The method of claim 40, wherein the step of ordering the set of possible advertisements based on a sales criteria associated with each advertisement of the set of possible advertisements comprises identifying played advertisements for a particular user from the user record.

42. A system of advertising comprising:
means for generating a set of possible advertisements, the set of possible advertisements being related to a context;
means for ordering the set of possible advertisements based on a sales criteria associated with each advertisement of the set of possible advertisements; and
means for providing advertisements from the set of possible advertisements based on the ordering.

43. The system of claim 42, wherein the means for providing advertisements from a set of possible advertisements comprises means for querying the user on whether to play a particular advertisement in its entirety.

44. The system of claim 42, wherein the means for ordering the set of possible advertisements based on a sales criteria associated with each advertisement of the set of possible advertisements comprises means for assigning weights to reflect purchasing behavior characteristics of the user.

45. The system of claim 42, wherein the means for ordering the set of possible advertisements based on a sales criteria associated with each advertisement of the set of possible advertisements comprises means for providing billing information on advertisements used based on a per use rate of charge.

46. A computer program product comprising computer readable program code for advertising with an Internet portal, the program code in the computer program product comprising:

15 first computer readable program code for generating a set of possible advertisements;

second computer readable program code for ordering the set of possible advertisements based on a sales criteria associated with each advertisement of the set of possible advertisements; and

20 third computer readable program code for providing advertisements from the set of possible advertisements based on the ordering.

47. The program code of claim 46, wherein the first computer readable program code for generating a set of possible advertisements comprises computer readable program code for selecting advertisements based on user constraints.

25 48. The program code of claim 46, wherein the second computer readable program code for ordering the set of possible advertisements based on a sales criteria associated with each advertisement of the set of possible advertisements

comprises computer readable program code for assigning values to advertisements based on contractual arrangements and attractiveness of the user.

49. The program code of claim 46, wherein the third computer readable program code for providing advertisements from the set of possible advertisements
5 based on ordering comprises computer readable program code for transforming semantically structure data and providing the data via a speech interface.

50. The program code of claim 46, wherein the third computer readable program code for providing advertisements from the set of possible advertisements based on ordering comprises computer readable program code for transmitting
10 advertisements to a wireless application protocol (WAP) device.

51. The program code of claim 46, wherein the third computer readable program code for providing advertisements from the set of possible advertisements based on ordering comprises computer readable program code for transforming internet-based information into speech or vocal transmission over the telephone.

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